



CROSS-AGENCY TRANSITION TEAM WHITE PAPER

SUBJECT: Funding for Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Agreements.

Issue

The NASA FY 2010 Appropriations Bill provides that NASA's Cross-Agency Support Funds (CASX) are limited to a one-year period of availability and will expire on September 30, 2010. This paper addresses the requirements for funding for Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Agreements.

IPA Agreements are entered into between NASA and Academic Institutions, State or Local Governments, Indian Tribal Governments, or other eligible organizations under the provisions of the IPA of 1970 (5 U.S.C. 3371 – 3376).

NASA guidance for IPA agreements is contained in: the "NASA Desk Guide on the Intergovernmental Personnel ACT (IPA), Version 3", and NPR 3300.1B, Chapter 6, "Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Agreements." Also, IPA Agreements are classified as a type of reimbursable agreement in NPR 9090.1, "Reimbursable Agreements".

In summary these are temporary assignments with an initial appointment up to two years and extensions possible not to exceed six years. These agreements may be developed for NASA employees assuming assignments with the aforementioned organizations (outgoing agreements), or for employees of the organizations assuming assignments with NASA (incoming agreements). This is a mobility program with assignments of mutual benefit to NASA, the organization party to the agreement, and the employee.

The written Assignment Agreement document specifies such elements as position data, type of assignment, reason for the mobility assignment, position description, fiscal obligations, travel allowances and expenses, and budget requirements. Allowable expenses include salary and fringe benefits, supplemental pay, travel, per diem living expenses, and relocation costs.

The issue germane to this discussion is related to the obligation of funds for employees from other entities working for NASA (incoming agreements). Long-standing NASA practice has been for a NASA organization entering into an IPA agreement to obligate funds to the second party (academic institution, or state or local government) for the full cost of the annual budget estimate. The second party typically pays the employee's salary, travel and per diem expenses, and submits vouchers on a quarterly basis to NASA for reimbursement.

Guidance

The Bona Fide need for the IPA agreement is determined at the time of the development of the Assignment Agreement document with the duration of the agreement specified in the document.

In that for civil service employees, salary, travel and per diem expenses are severable costs, these elements of the IPA agreement will be considered as severable expenses with funds obligated for estimated expenses consistent with time limitations of the funding source (one or two year appropriation). Comp. Gen. opinion B-217475 of Dec. 24, 1986 pertains.

Relocation expenses, if applicable, are considered non-severable and should be fully funded at the time of approval.